

HAITI DEVELOPMENT, ACCOUNT-
ABILITY, AND INSTITUTIONAL
TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the gravity of the cyber threat to our national security and critical infrastructure, especially as we face potential cyber threats from Russia following its horrific invasion of Ukraine. The Federal Government must know when vital sectors of our Nation are affected by cyber attacks, so that we may deploy the full resources of the Federal Government to respond to and mitigate these attacks.

Division Y of the bipartisan “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022” will take significant steps to strengthen cybersecurity protections and ensure that the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, is at the forefront of our Nation’s response to serious cyber attacks by requiring timely reporting of these attacks to the Federal Government so that we can better prevent future incidents and hold attackers accountable.

To be clear, Division Y of the Act, which is based on Rep. YVETTE D. CLARKE’s H.R. 5440, the “Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act of 2021,” and its Senate companion legislation (S. 2875) sponsored by Senator GARY C. PETERS, does not impede the FBI or other law enforcement investigations against perpetrators of attacks.

The plain text of Division Y makes Congress’s intent clear. Although the reports themselves—and any “communication[s], document[s], or material[s], or other record[s] created for the sole purpose of preparing, drafting or submitting” those reports—may not be received in evidence, the FBI and other law enforcement entities nevertheless may make full use of the information contained in such materials in their investigations of a cyber incident or for other purposes authorized by the statute. Likewise, additional facts developed in those investigations may be used to further those investigations or activities, including in ex parte or other proceedings. In other words, although the FBI cannot attach the report filed with CISA in a warrant application or submit it in evidence in a trial, it may, as appropriate, use information contained in the reports and derived from them for a range of purposes, including obtaining a warrant and prosecuting bad actors. Further, the legislative language also is not intended to prohibit or discourage entities from reporting to CISA and law enforcement concurrently.

The language of this division makes clear that the information may be used for cybersecurity or investigative purposes. In the new section 2245 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 created by this division, it clearly states that reports submitted to CISA under this provision can be used for “the purpose of preventing, investigating, disrupting, or prosecuting an offense arising out of a cyber incident reported pursuant to” the statute’s requirements or through voluntary reporting provisions.

Moreover, facts developed during an FBI investigation of a relevant cyber incident using

other authorities are not subject to the evidentiary restrictions found in section 2245(c)(3) of the statute, including similar facts that may also have been disclosed to the Federal Government in the report to CISA.

The FBI’s efforts to hold accountable, disrupt, or deter perpetrators of cyber attacks are fully consistent with the goal of encouraging entities to disclose cyber incidents. As stakeholders work through the rulemaking process, the committees of jurisdiction in both the House and the Senate look forward to working with them to ensure that congressional intent is not misinterpreted, and that this legislation is implemented as intended.

Mr. Speaker, the hard work of many of my colleagues went into the inclusion of this important legislation in the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022.” I want to thank especially Representatives CLARKE, JOHN KATKO, and ANDREW R. GARBARINO; and Senators PETERS, ROB PORTMAN, MARK R. WARNER, and SUSAN M. COLLINS.

RECOGNIZING SARA EGELSTON
AKERS

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sara Egelston Akers for a lifetime of service dedicated to fostering a love for the performing arts among the youth in our community.

In 1991, what began as a single production of “The Wizard of Oz” at a local church, would go on to become the profoundly impactful Plano Children’s Theatre (PCT), one of the first youth theaters dedicated to providing children from all backgrounds the opportunity to be on stage. Due to Sara’s efforts as the Theatre’s Founder and Executive Director, in time multiple performance theatres and rehearsal studios would be established across North Texas.

Among her most notable achievements during her tenure with PCT, Sara pioneered the use of drama as a means of therapy, paving the way for the widespread implementation of adaptive performing arts programs for students with disabilities.

Over the past three decades, Sara has been a vital contributor to Plano’s performing arts landscape. Following her executive role with PCT, Sarah went on to a serve as the Vice President of Community Outreach for North Texas Performing Arts (NTPA), where she oversaw fundraising, community outreach, and diversity efforts. Under her leadership, NTPA has become the largest youth theatre in the country impacting thousands of families.

For her many contributions within our community, Sara was recognized by the Plano Chamber of Commerce with the prestigious Athena Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Art Centre of Plano. In honor, NTPA has likewise established a “Sara Egelston Akers Legacy Fund” which will provide support for the organization’s scholarship initiatives.

Following her retirement this May, Sara will continue to serve as a teacher and director maintaining an active role in the NTPA’s Arts Advisory Council, Governing Board of Direc-

tor’s, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force.

Ms. Sara Egelston Akers, a gifted educator, artist, and leader, has undoubtedly made a lasting impact on the North Texas community, and though she will be missed, her future is sure to be filled with many wonderful new opportunities.

As she prepares to embark on this next chapter of her life, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Sara Egelston Akers for her successful career devoted to promoting accessibility among youth in the performing arts.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
RETIREMENT OF KENNETH BICE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Kenneth Bice.

Kenneth was born in Anniston, Alabama, on November 28, 1944. He now resides in Ohatchee, Alabama, with Fran, his wife of 40 years. He has been blessed with five children, 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

After working with South Central Bell for 15 years, Kenneth saw an opportunity to start a ground-breaking telecommunication company in Anniston, Alabama. As the telecommunication industry began rapidly changing with new FCC rulings allowing companies and individuals to buy their own telephone equipment instead of renting, he seized this opportunity and founded Telephone Communications, Inc (TCI) in 1979. TCI now serves thousands of customers with their managed services in the telecom, security and IT services industries. This successful company is the first of many companies Kenneth would begin. Other companies he founded include: TelNet Corporation, Bice Enterprises, The Homestead & Liberty Square, Blue Signs, Yello Wireless, Smart Ink, BCR Corporation, PHR, Inc., KB’s Restaurant and Action Auto.

He has served his community over the years and been involved as a Graduate of Leadership Calhoun County, a member of the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, Anniston Main Street Board of Directors, Founder of Citizens for Safer Alabama, Calhoun County Economic Development Council, Colonial Bank Advisory Board, Board of Directors for the Berman Foundation Museum, Board member of Anniston Retail Commercial Development Authority, Founder of Alabama Long Distance Association, Volunteer fireman at Ohatchee Fire Department and active member of Oak Bowery Church where he currently serves as Sunday School Teacher and Chairman of Properties Committee.

He Received Small Business Leader of the Year for Calhoun County (1990, 1994) and Special Achievement Award from State of Alabama (1990).

Kenneth retired February 14, 2022 and will be honored March 29th with family and friends in Saks.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating my friend on his retirement and his tireless service to our community.